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ABSTRACT

This 30-item annotated bibliography, directed toward an academic audience, offers annotations of general mythological materials that house specific sections or volumes of information pertaining to Celtic mythology as well as annotations of works that are solely Celtic in nature. Materials in the bibliography were published between 1932 and 1996, and represent recent materials as well as materials that are standards or classics in Celtic mythology and mythology in general. The bibliography presents encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and guides. (RS)

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Reference Sources On Celtic Mythology

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Forward To the Bibliography

As titled, this bibliography lists works concerning Celtic Mythology. This bibliography is directed towards an academic audience. The term Celtic or Celt (properly spoken with a hard C, as in Kelt) comes from the Greek word "Keltoi," meaning an inhabitant of the forest. The Celts were a distinct group of early Indo-European peoples who inhabited many parts of ancient Europe.

This bibliography is broken down into two parts. The first part presents general mythological materials that house specific sections or volumes of information pertaining to Celtic mythology. The second section lists works that are solely Celtic in nature.

This bibliography makes every attempt to employ the most recent materials available, but reserves the right to include those materials that are standards or classics in the area of Celtic mythology, and mythology in general. The subject of Celtic mythology is timeless, thus older works are, in some instances, acceptable, if not necessary.

Thirty sources in all have been selected. Every attempt has been made to collect a broad and diverse bibliography of materials pertaining to this subject. However, as the lack of numbers pertaining to materials in this bibliography that are solely Celtic points out the need for research to strengthen this topic.

General Mythological Sources Housing Celtic Mythology:

Encyclopedias:

Eliade, Mircea, ed. The Encyclopedia of Religion. New York: MacMillan, 1987; repr. 1993. 16v.

Covers all aspects of religion, especially the mythological roots of each religion. Included are the *Celtic* pagan religious traditions. This work provides 2700 entries by 1400 eminent scholars. Entries generally consist of broad descriptive narratives and religious traditions, individuals and themes. Coverage is world-wide. Each signed article is complete unto itself, and includes a bibliography. The final volume, issued a year after the encyclopedia was published, provides a thorough topical index along with a synoptic outline of contents.

World Mythology, Reference Book Series. New York: Holt and Co. 1993.

This oversized colorful encyclopedic work includes more than 500 color photographs, maps and artifacts that describe the myths of Egypt, the Middle East, India, China, Tibet, Mongolia, Japan, Greece, Rome and *the Celtic lands*, as well as the Americas, Mesoamerica, Africa, Australia, Oceania, and South East Asia. Includes a forward by Robert Walter, head of the Joseph Campbell Foundation.

Gray, Louis, Herbert, ed. Mythologies of All Races. Boston: The Archaeological Institute of America, Marshall Jones Co., 1932.

An important encyclopedic set that presents by volume, individual cultures from specific geographical areas by the top scholar. The contents by volume are: vol. 1 the Greek and Romans, vol. 2 the Eddic, vol. 3 the *Celtics* and the Slavic, vol. 4 The Finns and Siberians, vol. 5 Semitic, vol. 6 Indian (India) and Iranian, vol. 7 Armenian and African, vol. 8 Chinese and Japanese, vol. 9 Oceanic and North American, vol. 11 Latin American, vol. 12 Egyptian and Indo-China. Volume 13 is the Index. Although dated, the information is still valuable, presented in text and illustrations.

Mercante, Anthony. The Facts on File Encyclopedia of World Mythology.
New York: Facts on File, 1988.

This well written and well constructed reference tool houses over 3000 entries. Each furnishes plot descriptions of titles, definitions of terms, and identification of characters both fictitious and real. Most entries run less than a page, but are informative providing origins, significance and background. A selective bibliography is provided, as well as an extensive general index. A cultural, and ethnic index are included.

Jordan, Michael. Encyclopedia of Gods. New York: Facts on File, 1992.

Provides entries to over 2500 deities from the most ancient to the most contemporary cultures, including creator gods, astral and sky deities, fertility, and the primordial gods and goddesses. Presents details on their roles, characteristics and representative symbols.

Cotterell, Arthur. The MacMillan Illustrated Encyclopedia of Myths and Legends.
New York: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1989.

A section of brief introductory surveys of the mythology of specific countries or regions is followed by "Characters and Concepts: an A - Z of myths" which comprises a major portion of the book. Also included is a Micropedia consisting of more than 1000 short entries alphabetically arranged. This sections presents names not mentioned in the previous section. This work is cross-referenced and presents a brief bibliography and an index of names and subjects.

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Cavendish, Richard. Man, Myth and Magic: The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Mythology, Religion, and the Unknown. 2nd ed., New York: Marshall Cavendish, 1983.

This work was originally published in Great Britain in weekly periodical installments. The first edition of this work appeared in 1970 as a 24 volume set, now combined into the present 12 volume edition, eliminating material criticized as being irrelevant. A wide variety of material is covered, alphabetically arranged from volume 1 to volume 11, The twelfth volume is an index that refers to main articles and topics. A bibliography is provided with classified subject guides. This work is cross-reference throughout. A plethora of illustrations and photographs are provided. Among the many contributors to this work are some of the most distinguished scholars of our time. Articles are signed.

Dictionaries:

Allardice, Pamela. Myths, Gods, and Fantasy: A Dictionary: Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio., 1991.

This work is an alphabetically arranged dictionary of the gods, spirits, and creatures of myth. Its thorough core of Greek and, especially British (Irish, English, Scottish, and Welsh) legends, is reinforced by coverage of mythology from around the world. The entries are concise and informative, identifying the subject, summarizing its attributes and basic lore, as well as related beings, presented in small letters if they have their own entries. The entry will also present literary references to the subject, often with quotations, where applicable. This work also includes a bibliography.

Bonnefy, Yves. Mythologies. trans. Gerald Hanigsblum et. al., Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991.

This work is translated from the author's original "Dictionnaire des Mythologies et des Religions de Societes Traditionnelles et du Monde Antique." This 2 volume work offers signed scholarly articles on the mythologies and religions of prehistoric peoples, along with terms, symbols, rituals, concepts and other various aspects. Information on *Celtic* religion and mythology appears on pages 233 - 278.

Kendall, Alain, ed. Who's Who in Non-Classical Mythology. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

This work represents a reprinting of *Everyman's Dictionary of Non-Classical Mythology* by Egerton Sykes (4th ed. Sutton, 1968). It is important in its focus on the personalities from the mythology of cultures other than Greek and Roman, such as the *Celts*, Tuetons, Slavs Basques, the Americas, Africa, Australia, China, Japan, and Indonesia, providing a new perspective to the area of mythology.

Leach, Maria, ed., Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology, and Legend. New York: Harper and Row, 1984.

This work houses a very broad spectrum of 8000 entries of folklore and mythology from around the world. Lighter emphasis is placed upon the Greek and Roman myths. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order, and can range from one line, to over 20 pages. Survey articles do appear as part of the alphabetical order. A list at the beginning of the work provides quick access to them. All of these survey articles are signed, as are several of the entries, and have notes and bibliographies. The index to this work brings the entries into subject-related groupings by providing references to over 2400 countries, regions and cultures and cultural areas.

Leach, Marjorie. Guide to the Gods. California: ABC-Clio., 1992.

Comprehensive in its inclusion of mythological gods and goddesses from all over the world. Gods and Goddesses from legend and myth of the Greeks are treated with those from other regions of the world, including Europe, Asia, Africa and Polynesia. Entries are arranged alphabetically within chapters that fall under eight major sections: cosmogonical, celestial, atmospheric, terrestrial, life/death cycle, economic associations, sociocultural concepts, and religion. Boxscore entries are provided for more than 20,000 deities. A detailed name index provides access.

Lurker, Manfred. Dictionary of Gods and Goddesses, Devils and Demons. trans. G. L. Campbell, New York: Routledge, 1988.

Translated from the German work "Lexikon der Gotter und Damonen, this work offers a conspectus of all the important beings and deities, both in the classical and nonclassical cultures, including the world's religions of today. Entries are presented alphabetically by name, providing brief passages. Appendixes of functions, motifs, and symbols are provided, as well as a brief bibliography.

Bibliographies:

Diehl, Katharine, Smith. Religions, Mythologies, Folklores: an Annotated Bibliography. 2nd ed., New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1962.

An annotated bibliography of Religion, Mythologies, Folktales from around the world, including sections on the Celtic traditions, covering the literature of faith and practice in all cultures. Materials covered are of both general and specific reference, literatures, literary and historical guides, various scriptures, records, and biographies. Author and title index included.

Smith, Ron. Mythologies of the World: A Guide to Sources. Illinois: National Council of Teachers of English, 1981.

This work comprises 30 bibliographical essays on the folklore and mythologies of specific geographic and cultural areas, such as Mesopotamian, Biblical, Islamic, Arthurian, Oceanic and *Celtic*. The essays comment on individual works, the myths, cultural history, and relevant archaeology, architecture and languages. There is no index.

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Indexes:

Ireland, Norma, Olin, ed. Index to Fairy Tales, 1949 - 1972: Including Folklore, Legends and Myths in Collections. Westwood, MA: F.W. Faxon, 1973. Supp. 4 1973 - 77, Supp. 5 1978 - 1986.

——— Index to Fairy Tales, 1986 - 1992: Including Folklore, Legends and Myths in Collections. Metchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1989.

Compiled as a continuation of Mary Huse Eastman's *Index to Fairy Tales, Myths, and Legends.* These works index more anthologies, all in English, with most published in the United States. Access to the indexes are by title and subject. Arrangement is alphabetical by word, with two columns per page. The of the work is the main entry and refers to the researcher via a simple code. The entries appear in boldface type, and are common rather than motif in nature. This work is thoroughly cross-referenced.

Handbooks:

Tripp, Edward, and Wilson Knox. Myths and Legends of all Nations. Quality Paperback Series, no. 319. New Jersey: Littlefield Adams, 1978.

This work is presented in a series of essays covering the mythologies and folklore of the Greek and Roman cultures, as well as the area of Asia, the *Celtic peoples*, the Norse and Tuetonic myths, and others. Also provided is a chapter on the myths and legends of the Americas, and a brief section on American Folklore.

Celtic Sources:

Encyclopedias:

Daithi O. Myth, Legend, and Romance: An Encyclopedia of the Irish Folk Tradition. New York: Prentice Hall Press, 1991.

This work presents 284 entries, listed alphabetically, covering Irish myth, legend and Romance. Examples of topics include the Tuatha De Danann, the Irish epics, scholars, and mystics. Included is an index, a select bibliography, and a handy pronunciation guide.

Mathews, Caitlin and John Mathews. The Encyclopedia of Celtic Wisdom: The Celtic Shaman's Sourcebook. Rockport, MA: Element, 1994.

This work presents new translations of seminal Celtic texts, which include stories, poems and prose. Examples of topics for this work includes memory divination and prophecy, looks at the mythological idea of shape-shifting, soul-loss and restoration.

——— British and Irish Mythology: An Encyclopedia of Myth and Legend. London: Aquarian Press, 1988.

This work houses presents alphabetical entries on all of the central characters, gods, heroes, heroines, saints and legends which have contributed to the cultural psyche of the British Isles.

Dictionaries:

Briggs, Katharine, M. A Dictionary of British Folk-Tales in the English Language. New York: Routledge, 1991. Reprinted 3rd. ed.

This work falls into two main sections: *Folk Narratives* (meaning Folk Fiction) and *Folk Legends* (which was once believed as fact). Only English names and t translations are used. *Folk Narratives* is divided into 5 groups (alphabetically arranged): Fables and Exempla, Fairy Tales, Jocular Tales, Novelle, and Nursery Tales. *Folk Legends* is divided by subjects (also alphabetically arranged): Black Dogs, Bogies, Devils, Dragons, Fairies, Ghosts, Giants, Historical Legends, Local Legends, Origin Myths, Saints, The Supernatural, Witches and unclassified Miscellaneous Legends. Also included in the work is a Bibliography, an index of "Tale Types and Migratory Legends" and an "Index to Story Titles."

Dixon-Kennedy, Michael. Celtic Mythical Legend: An A - Z of People and Places. London: Blandford, 1996.

This work houses hundreds of entries, presented in an alphabetical format. Included are definitions to mythological terms, legends, languages, and the peoples of the ancient Celts.

Ellis, Peter, Beresford. Dictionary of Celtic Mythology. Santa Barbara CA: ABC-Clio., 1992.

Provides a handy introduction to Celtic myth, geared for a wide audience. Irish and Welsh influences and cultures are examined in this alphabetical listing of entries that describe places, events, gods, goddesses, heroes, weapons, and beasts. This work begins with an essay on the cultural history of the Celts. A useful bibliography is provided.

——— Dictionary of Irish Mythology. Santa Barbara CA: ABC-Clio. 1989.

This dictionary provides a handy introduction to Celtic myth, geared for a wide audience. presents an alphabetical arrangement of personal and place-names, together with select terms in Irish mythology. This work is cross-referenced, and includes a select bibliography.

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Green, Miranda. Dictionary of Celtic Myth and Legend. London: Thames Hudson, 1991.

Accumulated is a vast amount of material encompassing Celtic myth, religion and legend that "can be evidenced by archaeology and literature" during the period of 500 B.C.E. - 400 C.E. The material is presented in a clear and straightforward manner. The main body of the work is preceded by a lengthy, but informative introduction. Following the main body of the work is a "Reader's Guide," and subject index. Articles are rarely longer than two full columns, and are heavily cross-referenced. Major sources are cited.

Moorman, Charles and Ruth Moorman. An Arthurian Dictionary. Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1978.

This dictionary lists the characters, places, topics, and events connected with the legend of King Arthur, from its first written appearances through Sir Thomas Mallory's Le Morte d'Arthur. The entries are generally limited to Celtic (from whence the legend originates), French, German, and English materials. Characters that appear in more than one work, are considered important. However, the dictionary does include some of the less eminent figures and locations in the Arthurian legends.

Bibliographies:

Koch, John, T. The Celtic Heroic Age: Literary Sources for Ancient Celtic Europe and Early Ireland and Wales. Malden, MA: Celtic Studies Publications, 1994.

This work is an "extensive survey" of accessible English translations of primary literary materials, relevant to the study of the early Celts and geared towards university undergraduates enrolled in Celtic studies courses. Although not solely devoted to mythology and folklore, included are the myths and legends of the Celtic-speaking peoples. Also provided are the materials from writers of the Antiquities (Caesar, Tacitus, Justin) which provide a contemporary view of Celtic society. Early Irish dynastic poetry, Patrick, Brigid, British legendary history, Welsh heroic poetry, early Arthurian poetry, and the Breton foundation myths. Also provided are maps and a select index of persons, as well as a glossary of special names and terms.

Guides:

Smyth, Daragh. Guide to Irish Mythology. London: Irish Academic Press, 1988.

This work presents a dictionary arrangement of personal and place-names, as well as other terms from Irish mythology. An asterisk in the text indicates that the word has its own entry. Sources are mentioned, and presented in a bibliography. This work is indexed.

Kennedy, Gerald, Conan. Irish Mythology: A Guide and Sourcebook. Co. Mayo, Ireland: Morrigan Book Co., 1991.

This concise guide (48 pages) presents information and resources pertaining to Irish mythology and religion. Emphasis is placed on study and teaching. Includes bibliographic references.

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